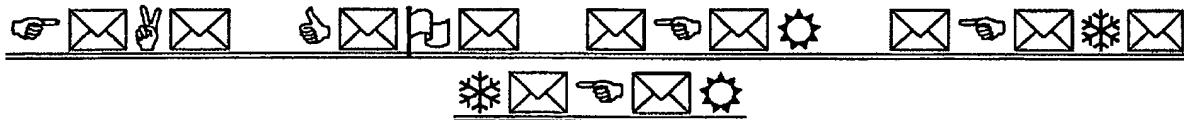


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**SERIAL NO.** : **09/849,731**

Number of pages  
including this cover page :

Enclosed: : Response A (Supplemental) (22 pp)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**IN RE APPLICATION OF:**

Hideki Itaya, Jason Dominik Hool, Javier Urena, Fredrick Spears, Osamu Ohno and Kantaro Maruoka

**PATENT**

**SERIAL NUMBER: 09/849,731**

**ART UNIT NO.: 1743**

**FILED: May 3, 2001**

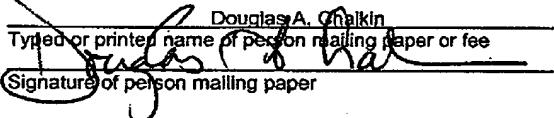
**EXAMINER: Elizabeth S. Quan**

**FOR: A DIAGNOSTIC PETTE ASSEMBLY  
INCLUDING AUTOMATED  
ASPIRATION APPARATUS**

**ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.:  
HCDI1786**

Corral de Tierra, California  
January 12, 2005

I hereby certify that this Response A and the documents referred to as enclosed therein is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on January 12, 2005 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
 Douglas A. Chalkin  
 Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee  
 Signature of person mailing paper

**RESPONSE A (Supplemental)**

Mail Stop: Fee Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Response A (Supplemental) is being submitted in response to the Office Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated February 6, 2004, relating to the above-identified application.

Reexamination and reconsideration of said application are respectfully requested. Applicant did not correctly provide the status identifier of the claims which were not changed. Those claims that have not been changed have been provided with

**RESPONSE A (Supplemental)  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HCDI1786**

**January 12, 2005**

the identifier "(Original)", which is believed to be correct and confirmed by the LIE via telephone call on this date.

Please note that there was an error in the original submission of this case. The correct file number of this case is **HCDI1786**. The Office and the Examiner are requested to take note of this change and to change their records accordingly. In the future, in both writing and orally, please use this identification when conferring with the attorney of record. Your cooperation and courtesy is appreciated.

The entire response is re-submitted without the check for one month's late fee which has already been received by the Office. Also, please note that the Notice herein states that the document was filed on January 20, 2004. This is incorrect. The actual date can be observed by the proof of service in the mailing certificate as January 15, 2004. Please note that the date received by the US/PTO is NOT the date of filing.

**IN THE DRAWING:**

Figs. 3 and 8 have been marked in red with the proposed changes and are enclosed herewith.